

## **Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Subject: MSCP Annual Report 2019-20**

Lead officer: Hannah Doody (Director of Children's Schools and Families)

Lead Member: Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Lead Officer: Karl Mittelstadt, Head of Performance, Policy and Partnerships

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. To note the content of Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2019-2020.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The MSCP is required to produce and publish a report on actions taken by statutory partners and relevant agencies for the local authority area to safeguard children and promote their welfare and outline how effective those arrangements have been in practice.
- 1.2 This year, the Executive Group requested a shorter report with a clearer outline of deliverables against the priority areas articulated in the business plan.
- 1.3 The report has had input from all statutory partners as well as local agencies. It was discussed at the February Executive, as well as the Full Partnership Meeting (attended by over 40 practitioners and managers) and received formal sign off by the Executive Group in March. The MSCP's Independent Scrutineer has had the opportunity to review and comment.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1 The business year 2019/20 was a year of transition for the MSCP, as it implemented the changes ushered in by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. As part of these transitions, the partnership's longstanding chair Keith Makin left his post, and we introduced the positions of 'Independent Scrutineer' and 'Young Scrutineer' with a view to strengthen local scrutiny arrangements.
- 2.2 During 2019/20, Early Help remained a priority for the MSCP. Partners conducted a baseline audit the findings of which have informed the development of the Early Help Strategy (due for publication shortly). In addition, the partnership continued to focus on multi-agency work to identify and address exploitation in all its forms.

2.3 During the business year 2019/20, the partnership notified the DfE about three significant incidents involving Merton children. Two of these notifications resulted in the commissioning of independent 'Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews' (formally 'Safeguarding Children Reviews') and one in a local practice review.

**3. NEXT STEPS**

3.1 The MSCP's Business Unit is in the process of publishing the annual report on the MSCP's website. The slight delay in publication is due to g, the annual report will be uploaded onto the MSCP's website.